AN ENQUIRY INTO THE *Miſconduct* and *Frauds*

Committed by

Several of the Factors, Super-Cargoes, and Others, employed by the late and preſent Directors of the *South-Sea* Company.

SHEWING

The Abuſes and Breaches of Truſt of the Company's Agents; whereby the Proprietors of *South-Sea* Stock were very much Injured, and became great Sufferers.

WITH

Copies of Original Letters ſent to Sir *J*—— *E*——, when Sub-Governor of the *South-Sea* Company.

ALSO

A Memorial from his Catholick Majeſty, complaining of the Breach of ſeveral Articles of the Aſſiento Contract, *&c. &c. &c. &c.*

Neceſſary to be read at this Time; and publiſhed purpoſely to ſhew the Proprietors who are fitteſt to be intruſted with their Properties as Sub and Deputy Governors, and Directors.

By a conſiderable Stock-holder.

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AN

ENQUIRY

INTO THE

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Committed by

Several of the Factors, Super-Cargoes, and Others, employed by the late and preſent Directors of the *South-Sea* Company.

THAT there are Biggots in all Communities, of what Kind or Nature ſoever, is as demonſtrable as any Propoſition in EUCLID; but that a Man, endowed with common Reaſon only, ſhould be ſo much biggoted and beſotted as to pin his Faith upon the bare

bare Aſſertion of any Perſon, or Number of Perſons, when he becomes a ſufferer in his Property, is one of the moſt unaccountable Things in Nature: and yet that there are ſuch People, is as certain as that there is a Sun in the Firmament.

In order therefore to open the Eyes of ſuch unhappy and inconſiderate Creatures, and to bring them to themſelves, to prevent their entire Ruin, and the utter Deſtruction of many other Families, I ſhall ſhew them the Cauſes by which they have become Sufferers, and lay before the World the Irregularities and illegal Proceedings of the Servants, employ'd by the South-Sea Company, which had very near occaſioned their total Overthrow, and whereby the Tranſgreſſors acquired large Fortunes.

The Detection, which ſhall be made here, will appear to be of the blackeſt Hue, and yet I do not find that any of the Delinquents have been brought to condign Puniſhment; for which Reaſon it may be ſuggeſted

ſuggeſted that they were ſcreen'd by their Superiors, leſt they ſhould bring them in as Parties concerned with them, and ſnacking Part of the Profits. Nor is this Suppoſition vain and frivolous, if ſome Paragraphs in the following Pages be duly conſidered.

When Sir John Eyles was choſen Sub-Governor of the South-Sea Company, which was in the Month of February, enſuing the fatal Year 1720, he harangued the Court of Directors, by telling them that the Trade of the Company was ſubject to many Embaraſſments and Inconveniences; which he attributed to the large Quantity of Goods and Effects, which always remained in the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, and which, upon the leaſt Breach with Spain, were liable to be ſeized, to the great Detriment of the Company.

To prevent therefore ſuch Hazards and Loſſes, and for the better Security and Intereſt of the Company, he propoſed it, as his Opinion, that

that the propereſt Method for carrying on their Trade for the future, and thereby to prevent any unſeen Accidents and Caſualities, would be to ſend Supra-Cargoe's in the Company annual Permiſſion Ships; this he ſaid would be leſs ſubject to any Hazards, and be the Means of making Returns more expeditiouſly. To this Opinion the Court unanimouſly agreed.

In Purſuance of this Agreement, the Directors choſe four Supra-Cargoes in their Ship the Royal Prince, Captain William Cleland Commander, for a Voyage to La Vera Cruz, and ſent her loaded with a Cargo of Goods to the amount of 250,000 l. The Supra-Cargoes were Mr. Catlin Thorowgood, Mr. Pitt, (who was principal Factor for the Company at La Vera Cruz) Mr. James Dolliffe, and Captain William Cleland.

Before I proceed any further, I muſt obſerve, and ſubmit it to the Impartiality of the World, that Mr. Thorowgood

Thorowgood had been formerly in the Service of the Company at Mexico, when Samuel Shepherd Esq; was one of the Governors; and for his Male-practices, and Misconduct abroad, it was ordered by the Court of Directors, Nemine contradicente, That he should never be employ'd in the Company's Service for the future. But it will appear hereafter, that during the Time that Sir John Eyles was Principal of the Oligarchy, those Supra-Cargoes and Factors, who had been guilty of the greatest Notorities, were chiefly countenanced and encouraged: this, I presume, will be look'd upon as a plain Indication, that some of the Directors at least, had a Fellow-feeling in the illicit Trade, carried on so many Years in the Company's annual Ships, by which the Proprietors were great Sufferers. For it is almost an Impossibility, that so large a Quantity of Goods as 150 Tuns, should be ship'd on Board the Royal George, at St. Christopher's, a larger Quantity on

Board the Prince Frederick, at Prince Ruper's Bay, in the Iſland of St. Domingo, and without their Privity and Conſent. Nor is it to be imagined, that the Supra-Cargoes themſelves could find no Money or Credit to purchaſe ſuch large Quantities of Goods for unlawful Tradè; which, it is not to be doubted, were of the richeſt Sort, and conſequently took up the leſs Room in the Ship.

On the Return of Mr. Thorowgood, Mr. Dolliffe and Capt. Cleland, the Committee of Buying and Accompts did, indeed, make ſome Enquiry into this Affair, and examined them all three; but pray what was the mighty ſtrict Enquiry? why nothing, as appears by the eaſy Anſwers that were made, and allowed of, but a ſtrong Preſumption, if not a plain Proof, that ſome of the Committee were at the Bottom.

As to Mr. Thorowgood, he plainly told the Committee on his Examination, that ſhould he mention Names and particular Sums to whom given abroad,

abroad, it would be of very ill Conſequence to the Company's future Affairs; but I cannot here help obſerving, that had his Actions been as juſt as they ought to have been, he would not have equivocated in ſuch a manner. Here were ſome ſecret Services done depend on it for ſome of his Friends in the Direction.

But this is not all: The Affair of Bumpſtead and Canham, two of the Company's Super Cargoes on board the Royal George for Carthagena and Porto Bello, both with reſpect to their taking on board the ſaid Ship 150 Tons of Goods at Chriſtopher's for private Trade, their procuring the Condemnation of the ſaid Ship at Antegoa, and of their being ſcreen'd from the Law Suit which was commenced againſt them on that Account.

This Affair is very plainly ſet forth in a late Pamphlet, call'd, The Secret Hiſtory of the late South Sea Directors, wrote by Mr. Templeman; from which I ſhall quote part thereof.

'Meſſieurs Bumpſted and Canham
'being arrived at the reſpective Ports
'in the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, and hav-
'ing diſpoſed of the Cargo, a little
'before their Departure for England,
'Mr. Bumpſted, contrary to the
'Opinion of all the Officers of the
'Ship, cauſed the Royal George to
'be hove down, which did her much
'Damage by ſtraining her, which
'looks as if he had ſome View in ſo
'doing, ſeeing in her Voyage home,
'on ſome Pretence, that the Stern
'Poſt moved, and that ſhe was not
'a tight Ship, they quitted her, and
'ſhipped themſelves with the
'Company's Treaſure on board the
'Kingſale Man of War, Capt. Gir-
'lington (a) and obliged the Com-
'mander, Capt. Phillips, to bear
'away with her for Antegoa, where
'they procured her Condemnation,
'much againſt the Conſent of all
'the Officers on board, which will
'be

(a) *Capt.* Girlington *demanded about* 6000 l. *Sterling for bringing home the Company's Treaſure, and detained ſeveral Cheſts of Silver on his Ship 'till he was ſatisfied.*

'be ſeen by ſeveral Extracts of Letters
'and Minutes a little farther, relating
'to this Affair.

'This Tranſaction of Meſſieurs
'Bumpſtead and Canham's, made ſo
'much Noiſe on the Royal-Exchange
'by Gentlemen of the Inſurance-
'Offices (b), as well as others, there
'being ſuch vaſt Sums of Money
'taken up on Bottomree, that ſoon
'after their Arrival home, of Ne-
'ceſſity it obliged the Court of Di-
'rectors

(b) *The Gentlemen of the* London *Inſurance-Office, applied to the Court of Directors, that a proper Perſon with a Veſſel ſufficiently manned might be diſpatched to* Antegoa *to bring home the* Royal George, *which was agreed to; and accordingly Mr.* Bird, *the* Company's *Builder, was appointed with proper Inſtructions for that Purpoſe, who on his Return back made Report to the* Court, *That ſhe was in a bad* Condition, *and that it was no ways practicable to attempt the bringing her home, or to that Effect: Upon which, the Gentlemen of the Inſurance Office manned out a Veſſel with a skilful Perſon, at their own* Charge, *who brought her ſafe to* England; *after which, I myſelf ſaw her in the* Company's *Dock at* Deptford, *and was told, that her Botton was as ſound as any Ships there, though ſhe had lain at* Antegoa *ſeveral Months expoſed to all Weathers: I don't mean this any ways as a Reflection on Mr.* Bird's *Capacity, not being privy to any private Orders he might have from ſome Gentlemen in the Direction to leave her behind him.*

‘ rectors to appoint a Committee to
‘ enquire into this Affair; which
‘ was accordingly done, all their
‘ Proceedings in this Matter being
‘ kept with the utmoſt Secrecy.

Extract of a Letter *from Mr.* John Griffith, *one of the Mates of the* Royal George *to Capt.* Jones, *one of the Directors, dated in* Engliſh *Harbour at* Antegoa, *the* 26th *of* December, 1726.

THE firſt of December we got into Engliſh Harbour on the Iſland of Antegoa; the ſecond, ditto, Mr. Bumpſted ſent a Letter on board by the Captain, intimating our Opinions, whether or no the Ship was in a Poſture of performing her Voyage to England; we all gave our Opinions that with a thorough Repair ſhe was fit, and all the Officers were deſirous to go in her: But he

he made reply, whether or no we gave our Consencs, he would condemn her (c); which Reason has been given

(c) *I have been told by one Mr.* Elton Lewis, *belonging to a Merchant Ship called the* Essex, *who was at* Antegoa *the Time the* Royal George *was redeemed, and was privy to the whole Affairs that Mr.* Bumpsted, *when he came on Shore, sollicited Capt.* Girlington, *of the* Kingsale *Man of War, to send proper Persons on board the* Royal George *to take a Survey; upon which the Captain asked him for what Reason he would have her surveyed; Mr.* Bumpsted *replied, in order to have her condemned, for that he thought it was not safe to carry her to* England. *Says the Captain to him again, if that is your Intention, I'll find you Men enough that shall condemn her; and soon after that, ordered the Carpenter of his own Ship and* Crew, *and the* Carpenters *and their* Crews *of several Merchant Ships that lay in that Road, to go on board the* Royal George, *and take a Survey, which they did, and not long after she was condemned; tho' Mr.* Lewis *told me, that it was the Opinion of* Capt. Girlington, *that the* Royal George, *was better capable of proceeding to* England *with the* Company's *Treasure than his own Ship, but could not learn what the* Condemnation *cost Mr.* Bumpsted, *but believes no small Sum.*

Mr. Lewis *also told me, that after the* Roya George *was condemned, she was laid on a Rock on her Middle, and all her Ballast trimm'd afore and aft, which was enough to disable the best Ship that ever was built; after which her Iron-work was drawn from her fore and aft Parts, and that she was*

given us all the Voyage without the Conſent of the Officers; for it was the ſame thing at Porto Bello, when we told him the Conſequence of it, and likewiſe the Ship being very tight did not make an Inch of Water for eighteen Months: He ſaid it did not ſignify any thing, he would have a clean Ship, which has proved the Ruin of the Ship; the Reaſons of which is too long to relate in this ſmall Compaſs.

The 7th of December there came a Notary Publick on board with our ſecond Supra-Cargo, Mr. Canham, with a Form of a Proteſt to indemnify them from our bearing away; we made ſeveral Obſtacles, and made them ſcratch ſeveral Articles out; ſo that Mr. Canham, ſecond Supra-Cargo,

was almoſt diſſected one Joint from another, which plainly ſhews the Villany intended.

Mr. Lewis *told me further, that Mr.* Bumpſted *kept open Houſe at* Antegoa *three or four Days in a Week for all comers and goers, with Muſick and Dancing, ſuch Doings having never been ſeen in that Iſland before. The ſaid Mr.* Lewis, *who declared all this, is now living, and willing to make Oath of the Truth thereof, if required.*

Cargo, ſaid, Gentlemen, you may depend upon it, you ſhall never be employed in the Company's Service again: I am of Opinion when the Company comes to hear of the whole Affair, they will not ſend any more Supra-Cargoes. This is a fine Affair to relate, that Officers to be three Years in their Service, and to have ſuch Encouragement for carrying their Goods from St. Chriſtopher's (d), and lying upon Bales, to be threaten'd after this manner.

Theſe Enormities were further confirmed by Mr. Scott, the Carpenter of the Royal George, and by Mr. French, the Surgeon's Mate. Beſides them, Mr. Weſt, the Carpenter's Mate, being examined before a Committee of the 27th of February,

C

(d) *The Abſtract of this Letter to* Capt. Jones, *plainly ſhews that Mr.* Bumpſted *did take in Goods at St.* Chriſtopher's; *and as to the Quantity, which was about* 150 *Tons, that is confirmed by Affidavit of the firſt, ſecond, and third Mates of the* Royal George, *taken before a* Committee *at the* South-Sea Houſe; *which Affidavits are now in the Secretary's Office, if not deſtroy'd.*

bruary, 1726, concerning the Condemnation of the Royal George, he ſaid, that when the Ship was hove down at Porto Bello, it was againſt the Opinion of all but Mr. Bumpſted; and that by her being hove down ſhe was ſtrained; but before that ſhe was thoroughly ſound and good.

But now mark the Fate of Mr. Utbar, the firſt Mate of the Royal George: He, as an honeſt Man, ſtood out to the laſt againſt having the Ship condemned; and on his Return home was diſcharged, and has never been employ'd in the Service of the Company ſince.

But now we come to the Touchſtone of this Affair of Bumpſtead and Canham. A Bill was filed in Chancery againſt them; but at the Inſtigation of the then Sub-Governor, the ſame was withdrawn, and the Affair left to Arbitration. Why I ſay the Bill in Chancery was withdrawn at the Inſtigation of the Sub-Governor is, that at a Court of Directors

rectors on the 28th of December, 1728, he made a Speech; and in it exhorted the Court well to consider the Affair of laying open in a Court of Chancery Mr. Bumpsted's private Trade; that it would be of a very dangerous Consequence to the Company, with regard to the Court of Spain. Let any one judge within himself, whether this is not a plain Indication that some of the leading Men in the Direction were concerned in the private Trade; and, as I imagine, they were afraid that had the said Suit gone on they must have been discovered.

At length it was agreed to leave Bumpsted's Affair to Arbitration, upon which four Arbitrators were appointed, and all of them Directors, viz. Thomas Cowslad, Esq; and the present Deputy-Governor, John Bristow, Esq; on the Part of Mr. Bumpsted, and Gabriel Roberts, and William Bowles, Esqrs; on Behalf of the Company; who, after several Meetings, came to a Resolution; but in-

ſtead of inſiſting on Satisfaction from Mr. Bumpſted, for the Damage the Company ſuſtained by his carrying the Royal George to Antegoa, and getting her condemned, and taking on Board the ſaid Ship at St. Chriſtopher's, in his Paſſage to the Weſt-Indes, 150 Tuns of Goods for illicit Trade, they awarded him and Mr. Canham 3170 l. odd Shillings.

Mr. Bumpſted, by this ſurprizing Award, being skreened from his Proſecution, ſoon after had the Honour to marry Sir John Eyles's Daughter, and is (as I have been informed) poſſeſſed of a great Eſtate in Oxfordſhire, and another in Warwickſhire, at which laſt he reſides, and lives in great Pomp and Splendor; and it may be obſerved, that tho' the Proprietors have been backward in purchaſing Eſtates for themſelves, their Directors have procured thoſe that have done it for them.

Before I conclude the Affair of Mr. Bumpſted, I cannot omit one material Thing Meſſ. Bumpſted and

Canham

Canham acknowledg'd to a Committee on the 27th of October 1727. that they had 7056 Dollars belonging to the Company in their Hands; which it was never found by any Account in the Secretary's Books that they had paid it; but perhaps that was forgiven them in the Award.

I think what I have already laid down is a plain Proof who are fitteſt to be intruſted in the Direction; but this is nothing to what I ſhall hereafter mention; of your late Sub and Deputy Governors and Directors, but in the mean Time ſhall make a ſhort Digreſſion, and conſider a little the Affairs of Mr. Benjamin Wooley and others; which relates to your preſent Deputy Governor and Directors, and which I think will be plain enough from the following Queries inſerted in the Daily Poſt of the 16th of December laſt.

1. Whether the promoting Mr. Holloway to be chief Factor at the Havanna, and making a Motion for Impreſt

Impreſt Money for him and the other Factors, which Motion was then haſtily paſs'd, did not occaſion a Reſolution, that for the future the Court of Directors ſhould grant no more Impreſt Money to the Factors, it having been found diſadvantageous to the Company? Whether the Impreſt to Holloway alone was not 600 l.

2. Whether Mr. Holloway's Circumſtances were ſuch as to deſerve this Credit, and as though this Promotion and Credit had been ſufficient, if he was recommended to the Court for higher Preferment, and whether the Company are not Loſers by him?

3. Why on Eden and Holloway's Death at the Havanna, Mr. Benjamin Woolley, a Book-Keeper, ſucceeding as firſt Factor, was, on Account of his Age, barely 21 Years, and Inexperience, not judg'd fit to continue ſo, and yet in a ſhort Time thought mature enough to be firſt Factor at Panama and Porto Bello? Whether this

this Appointment happened by Deſign or Accident?

4. Whether when a Perſon was propos'd by a certain Junto to ſucceed Mr. Woolley at the Havanna and choſe, any Anſwer was made to this Queſtion, viz. Whether any Director preſent would in his private Capacity truſt him for Half a Crown? and whether one of his Patrons did not afterwards make this Apology for himſelf, That he had a Reſpect for that Perſon's Family, and the ſaid Perſon had promis'd Amendment?

5. Whether the Junto previous to Mr. Woolley's Choice, did not ſupport, in order to place at the Head of the Porto Bello Factory, another Perſon, who was rejected by a material Fact being diſcovered againſt him, though declared by ſome of the Junto not to be ſo, and whether the ſaid Candidate did not immediately become a Bankrupt.

6. By whoſe Favour Mr. Benjamin Woolley, who has made himſelf ſo re-

remarkable at the Havanna, was lifted up to be chief Factor at Panama and Porto Bello? Whether the ſaid Woolley is not charged, in a Memorial delivered to the Court of Directors by Sir Thomas Geraldino in September laſt, with being the ſole Cauſe of detaining the Ships at the Havanna, by refuſing to demonſtrate, that the Effects which he deſigned to ſhip on board the ſaid Veſſels were the Produce of the Company's Slaves, &c.——Of not having the Company's Intereſt at Heart, by deſcribing to them a Seizure of a large Cargo to be but about 300 Dollars Value out of the Sailors Cheſts;——By attempting to include the Produce of thoſe Goods as the Company's Property, and of being concerned therein; and whether the King of Spain did not inſiſt for theſe Reaſons, that the ſaid Woolley ought to be anſwerable for the Demurrage of the Ships, and be immediately recalled? And if his Misbehaviours have not again been

repreſented

repreſented in a ſubſequent Anſwer to the Company's Complaint of Grievances.

7. If theſe Facts are true, whether the Company may not ſuffer many thouſand Pounds by Woolley's Miſmanagement, and why it has not been redreſs'd?

8. If theſe Facts are true, whether by the 22d Article of the Aſſiento, Woolley is not declared for ever incapable of having any Employment in the ſaid Aſſiento, and conſequently, whether his Continuance in the Service of the Company is juſtifiable?

9. When Mr. Woolley, in his Letter, dated at the Havanna the 10th of March, 1733, acquainted the Court he had ſent a Bill for 3000 Dollars remitted on Account of Negroe Sales, and that he would have ſent a larger Sum but for ſundry Reaſons therein alledged? Whether Sir Thomas Geraldino did acquaint the Court that 8000 Dollars were regiſtered and brought home? Whether Part of theſe 8000 Dollars were not conſign'd to

the preſent D——y G——r, and if he was not the Perſon who acquainted the Committee of the Court of Directors, that 4000 Dollars were on Mr. Woolley's Account, being the Produce of his Commiſſion, and the other 1000 ſent the Company on Account of Eden, deceas'd.

10. Whether the Court of Directors did not appoint a Joint-Committee to draw up an Anſwer to a Pamphlet, entitled, An Enquiry into the Conduct of Benjamin Woolley; and if any Anſwer was ever propos'd to the Court, except one from the D——y G——r; and if that was not conſulted at a Tavern, and when laid before the Court, oppos'd by ſome as inſufficient and improper.

11. Whether the Conduct of Mr. Woolley's Patrons, who artfully threaten'd to diſqualify upon your Enquiry at a General Court into his Conduct, ought not to be conſider'd with Reſentment, eſpecially if they appear moſt aſſiduous to be choſen by the ſummary Way of a Houſe Liſt.

12.

12. When the Committee appointed by a General Court to inſpect Woolley's Conduct met the Court of Directors, whether a Director did not publickly declare, That for his Part he came into the Direction with no other View than to ſerve his Friends and Relations.

13. If the preſent D——y G——r was not one of the Arbitrators in Mr. Bumpſted's Affair? which Arbitration has been ſet aſide by the Lord Chancellor.

14. If the Junto has not endeavoured to pave the Way for one of themſelves to be choſen Treaſurer of the Company? And to add more at preſent, Whether the Company's Affairs are likely to be very flouriſhing if more Regard is had to Perſons for being Relations and Tools, than to their Qualifications, and if Factors and their Accompts are for ever to be ſcreen'd?

Now having laid before you theſe Queries. I ſhall proceed to give you

the Anſwers to the ſame, as they were inſerted in the Daily Poſt of the 8th of January; but before I go on, I muſt inform you, that they were written and publiſh'd by the Direction of the very Perſons accuſed in the Queries; and as they are of themſelves but trifling and evaſive, I am perſuaded they will not be much regarded. They are as follow:

ANSWER to the firſt QUERY.

As to the Fact of Money being impreſs'd to Mr. Holloway, and the other Factors, I find that beſides him there was but one Factor, Mr. Eden, and a Book-keeper, Mr. Woolley, to which laſt no Money was impreſt, and that the Motion for the Impreſt Money to the Factors was neither haſtily made, or paſs'd, but was according to the common Courſe, and the Impreſt Money agreeable to what had been conſtantly practis'd; the Reſolution afterwards taken not to grant any more Impreſt Money to Factors, was not owing to Mr. Holloway's

way's being promoted to be chief Factor at the Havanna, but to the general Reaſon that it might be diſadvantageous to the Company; and ſo far as this Reſolution may prove beneficial, the Court of Directors have a Right to the Merit of it. The Impreſt Money to Mr. Holloway was 600l. but not more than uſual on ſuch Occaſions.

ANSWER to the Second.

I don't find that Mr. Holloway's Circumſtances, at the Time of his Election, were doubted; and I am inform'd that he was recommended by Perſons of Character, and his Abilities were generally thought ſuch as might recommend him to higher Preferment, and that there is Reaſon to hope the Company will be no Loſers by him.

ANSWER to the Third.

The Subject Matter of this Query being what has been chiefly made uſe of to aſperſe the Characters of the Gentlemen

Gentlemen of the Direction, I have taken the more Pains to inform myſelf of the true State of the Caſe; It appears that Mr. Benjamin Woolley was choſen Book-keeper to the Havanna Factory, on the 6th of April 1733, and executed his Bond to the Company on the 27th of the ſaid Month; that he was baptiz'd on the 19th of May 1712, and conſequently he might not, at the Time of his being choſen, have attain'd the compleat Age of 21 Years; which Circumſtances had the Court of Directors known, it could have been no Objection againſt the Choice of him as Book-keeper, for the Diſcharge of which Truſt it was never eſteemed neceſſary that the Perſon ſo employ'd ſhould be of the Age of 21 Years; beſides, in the Bond executed by him were join'd two Sureties, againſt whoſe Sufficiency there can be no Objection; and upon his commencing junior Factor, by the Death of Mr. Holloway in October following, he executed and ſent Home Covenants,

by

by which he became bound for his Conduct as Factor; and was at that Time of full Age.

Upon further Advice of the Death of Mr. Eden, the other Factor, whereby Mr. Woolley was become ſole Factor at the Havanna, the Court of Directors were of Opinion, that there being at that Place many old Accounts and Dependencies to be ſettled, and recover'd, a Perſon of more Experience than Mr. Woolley would be neceſſary there; and it was reſolved to ſend him junior Factor to Panama and Porto Bello; but after the Choice was made of that Factory, notwithſtanding the Reſolution of ſending Mr. Woolley as junior Factor, he is ſtation'd as firſt: Here indeed is great Appearance of Favour, and the Directors on this Occaſion ſuppos'd to act with great Partiality; but when it was known that the common Courſe of Succeſſion in Buſineſs directed this Appointment, the Matter will appear in a very different Light. The Choice of Factors for

Panama

Panama and Porto Bello fell on Mr. Woolley, Mr. Daviſon, and Mr. Humphreys, the firſt of whom, as appears by the above Narration, had been for ſome Time the Company's ſole Factor at the Havanna, and the other two never in any higher Station than Book-keepers; conſequently Mr. Woolley had a Right, according to the common Courſe of Succeſſion, to be the firſt in Nomination; the Power of tranſacting Buſineſs is equally diveſted in the three, and his being nominated firſt gave him only a ſmall Advantage in point of Commiſſion; beſides, I am inform'd that the Affairs of the Panama and Porto Bello Factory are very different from thoſe of the Havanna, the Settlement of old Accounts and Dependencies there, being then, and ſtill, under the Direction of an Agent appointed for that Purpoſe, and the ſole Buſineſs of the Factors which were then to be ſent being that of ſelling Blacks for ready Money and making Returns.

ANSWER to the Fourth.

I cannot find any one was propoſed by a Junto to ſerve the Company at the Havanna, or that any Perſon who then appeared as a Candidate, had any Objection made to his Character before he was choſen; and if, after the Choice, any ſuch general Expreſſion was uſed, as is hinted in the Query; no particular Objection being then made, it is no wonder that no further Notice was taken of it.

N. B. There were two Factors choſen to ſucceed Mr. Woolley at the Havanna, and the Perſon ſeem'd to be hinted at, was ſtation'd Junior Factor, and to keep the Books.

ANSWER to the Fifth.

The Word Junto, which is here, and in a former Article, made uſe of, is only underſtood by the Queriſt, altho' his deſign of throwing dirt by it is very plain; that on the choice of the Porto Bello Factory, there was

a Candidate, againſt whom, Objections were made, I am inform'd, is true, as it is probable, there will be againſt ſome Candidates in moſt future Elections: what was the conſequence on this Occaſion? a Perſon objected to, was not choſen. But under this Head, the Contradiction of the Querift muſt be taken Notice of; here he asks, if another Perſon was not ſupported, in Order to be placed at the Head of the Panama and Porto Bello Factory; and in the third Article it is enquir'd, whether Mr. Woolley's Appointment to the ſame Poſt, happen'd by Deſign or Accident.

N. B. I find that Mr. Woolley and the other Perſon were ballotted for on the ſame day.

ANSWER to the Sixth.

I find that Mr. Woolley was appointed firſt Factor by the Court of Directors, and as it appears to me without any particular Favour. True

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it is, that he is charged in a Memorial deliver'd by Sir Thomas Geraldino in September laſt, with the ſeveral particulars mentioned in the Query: but at the time of his being choſen, no change of Misbehaviour had been made againſt him.

ANSWER to the Seventh.

If the Facts ſhould prove true, they can be no Juſtification of the Injury done to the Company by detaining their Ships upon account thereof; the words of the 14th Article of the Aſſiento Treaty being expreſs, that their Ships ſhall not be detain'd under any pretence, or for any cauſe or motive whatſoever; and therefore the Directors have, purſuant to a Reſolution of the General Court, laid a complaint of this Grievance, amongſt others, before his Majeſty; which is the moſt effectual method that could be taken for obtaining Redreſs.

ANSWER to the Eighth.

If the Facts in the Memorial are true, Mr.Woolley is declared by the Affiento, incapable for ever of having any Employment in the ſaid Affiento: but it is not uſual for any Engliſhman (nor is it fit that any Man) ſhould be condemn'd witho and as heard in his own defence; an Op- Mr.Woolley has not yet had an Opportunity of making his defence, his continuance in the ſervice of the Company can't be unjuſtifiable; and in the mean time no prejudice can ariſe to the Company, as the Court of Directors have uſed all the precautions poſſible, by ſending new Factors to the Havanna, to take the Company's Effects at that place into their hands; and Mr.Woolley cannot take poſſeſſion of his Station at Panama and Porto Bello, until he ſhall have given a ſatisfactory Anſwer to the Court of Directors.

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ANSWER to the Ninth.

I find the Committe was acquainted, that of the 8000 Dollars, which appear'd in the Regiſter of the Money by the Union, 4000 Dollars were on Mr. Woolley's Account, and underſtood by the Committee to be the produce of his Commiſſions; which is confirmed by Mr. Woolley's Accounts ſince tranſmitted to the Company, whereby it appears, that a larger ſum than the 4000 Dollars was due to him at the time of his ſhipping the ſame; and as in this caſe he had a Right to ſend it home, it is altogether immaterial to whom it was conſign'd.

N. B. I am inform'd the Un[illegible] was the ſecond Ship, which Mr. Woolley ſent home loaden with Effects for the Company's Account; which Effects by both Ships, excluſive of the 3000 Dollars, amounted to about the Value of 60,000 Dollars; and no Money or Effects were ſent home by Mr. Woolley in the firſt Ship on his own Account.

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ANSWER to the Tenth.

I am inform'd that a Committee was appointed to draw up an Anſwer to a Pamphlet, intitled, An Enquiry into the Conduct of Mr. Benjamin Woolley; which Anſwer was accordingly prepar'd, and approv'd of by the Court of Directors, and offered by the Sub-Governor to be laid before a General Court held the 2d of May laſt; but upon a very juſt Remark made by a Perſon in that General Court, that the Pamphlet itſelf was a ſquib thrown out, and would only be remarkable from the Notice which ſhould be taken of it, or words to that effect, it was reſolved to reſt the Affair upon a farther Reſolution. The Remainder of this Query is too trifling to deſerve an Anſwer.

ANSWER to the Eleventh.

It is not to be wonder'd at, that the Uſage which the Court of Directors met with from ſome particular perſons, ſhould make ſeveral Gentlemen

men uneaſy in the Company's ſervice, not, as is inſinuated, becauſe Mr. Woolley's conduct was to be look'd into, for their diſqualifying themſelves could no Ways conduce to the protecting him: As to the invidious Mention of a Houſe Lift, the Proprietors will conſider which of the two is moſt eligible, a Lift of Directors fram'd by a Cabal, or one made by a Number of Proprietors, in Conjunction with the preſent Court of Directors, who, modeſtly ſpeaking, may be allow'd to be Proprietors alſo.

ANSWER to the Twelfth.

As this contains perſonal Scandal, it deſerves no Anſwer.

ANSWER to the Thirteenth.

It is well known, and was ſo at the laſt Election, that the Deputy-Governor was one of the Arbitrators in Mr. Bumpſted's Affair: but altho' the Query ſeems calculated to throw a Reflection on that Arbitration, the

ſame

ſame can have no Weight, ſince the Lord Chancellor has not ſet aſide the Award, as is falſly aſſerted, but has only given the Company Liberty to proceed againſt Mr. Bumpſted for Matters diſcover'd ſince the making the Award, and conſequently not then within the Knowledge of the Arbitrators.

ANSWER to the Fourteenth.

The Inſinuation in the ſeveral Branches of this Query, can be only anſwer'd in the Negative; for that no Junto has endeavour'd to pave the Way for any Perſon to be choſen Treaſurry of the Company; no undue Preference has been given to Relations or Tools; nor have any Factors, or their Accounts, been endeavour'd to be ſcreen'd, ſo far as I have been able to learn.

Before I introduc'd theſe Anſwers to the Queriei, I inform'd you of their being frivolous and evaſive; but there having appeared a Proof of their

their Falſity in the Daily Poſt, I will give you here the moſt material Part thereof.

From the Daily Poſt, Jan. 14. 1736.

To the firſt and ſecond Queries, the Anſwer ſays, There is Reaſon to hope, the Company will be no Loſers by him: whereas there is no Probability for ſuch Hope, if Mr. Woolley is to be credited, who ſays, in his Letter to the Court of Directors, dated at Havanna the 15th of November 1733, as follows: I can't believe Mr. Holloway's Effects will near anſwer his 600l. to the Company. The Anſwerer of the Queries fills almoſt his whole Paper in vindicating Mr. Woolley, and his Patrons, in the Choice of him. But the Publication of the ſeveral Minutes of the Court of Directors, and Committees of Correſpondence relating to that Affair, has fully evinced the Weakneſs of his Attempt. The Suggeſtion that the Affairs of the Havanna and Porto-Bello Factory are different from

thoſe at the Havanna, is downright Artifice: For Mr. Parmenter was ſent to the former as a temporary Agent, to ſettle the old Dependencies upon the Vacancy of the Factory, and upon his Removal or Death, the Affairs committed to him, as well as the other important Buſineſs of that Factory were to devolve upon Mr. Woolley, and the other Factors. This the ſeveral Letters and Deputations clearly ſhew, and ſhould not have been concealed by the Anſwerer. As to the Notice he takes of Mr. Daviſon and Humphries being only Book-keepers at Porto Bello, 'tis meer trifling; for Daviſon and Sergeant there, often did the whole Buſineſs of the Factory, and behav'd well for above Ten Years in the Company's Service; and why Woolley, a Book-keeper, tho' ſucceeding by Death as Firſt Factor at the Havanna, (who was not thought proper, on Account of his Age and Inexperience, to be continued Firſt Factor there,) yet ſhould, by uncommon Contrivance in his

his Patron, be ſet over Daviſon, as Firſt Factor at Porto Bello, let the Anſwerer declare if he can. Notwithſtanding the ſtrict Orders given the Company's Factors at the Havanna, to ſell Negroes for ready Money only; yet it appears by Mr. Woolley's own Letters, that he hath not comply'd therewith; and by the Accounts he ſent the Company, ending September 1734. it is evident, the then outſtanding Debts of the Havanna Factory, were greater than the former outſtanding Debts delivered over to him by Nicholſon and Taſſel, the former Factors; and the Anſwerer is highly culpable for omitting to inform you, that the Effects ſent by Woolley, amounting to 60,000 Dollars, were Fruits deliver'd to him by Nicholſon and Taſſel, and that Woolley had no other Concern therein, than drawing Commiſſion for ſhipping the ſame. And how he remited Mr. Deputy-Governor 4000 Dollars, maintain the Charge of the Factory-Houſe, which by Covenant

he was obliged to do, lend the Governor of Porto Bello 1000 Dollars, advance for the Company (as appears by his Accounts) ſeveral 1000 more, and all theſe out of his Commiſſion, is left to the Anſwerer to make out.

The Anſwer to the Tenth Query, alledging, That a Committee was appointed to draw up an Anſwer to a Pamphlet, entitled, An Enquiry into the Conduct of Mr. Benjamin Woolley; which Anſwer was accordingly prepar'd, and approv'd of by the Court of Directors, and offer'd by the Sub Governor to be laid before a General Court held the 2d of May laſt; is not only falſe in fact, but highly injurious to your deceas'd Sub-Governor: To do Juſtice therefore to his Memory in that Particular, and detect the Anſwerer, the following Narrative will be agreeable to all Lovers of Truth.

'Tis remarkable no Committe was appointed before the 2d of May to anſwer the ſaid Pamphlet, and there-

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fore no Anſwer could be drawn up or ready to be laid before a General Court the 2d of May; what the Sub-Governor mention'd at the concluſion of his Speech to the General Court on that day, was only by way of hint, that it might be improper to publiſh the Company's Secrets (if the Facts publiſh'd in that Pamphlet were ſo, 'tis hoped they will have no more Secrets of ſuch a nature)—— But the joint Committee to conſider of what might be proper to be laid before the next General Court by way of Anſwer to the ſaid Pamphlet, was not appointed by the Court of Directors 'till the 9th of May, which Committee, if they met the 12th and 13th of May, as mentioned in the Attendance Book, it was in an unuſual and private manner, and they did not think fit to enter any minutes, neither was any Anſwer prepared or Report brought by them to the Court of Directors, but on the 14th of May it is minuted in the Court-Book, that the Deputy-Gover-

nor

nor (not the Sub-Governor or the Committe) acquainted the Court that He believed ſomething concerning Mr. Woolley would be expected by the General Court, wherefore He had drawn up what He thought proper to be ſaid to them in Anſwer to the Pamphlet lately publiſh'd; this was read and approved by the Majority, but oppoſed by ſome as unworthy the Honour of the Court. What is become of this Anſwer does not appear by the Company's Books.

As to the Eleventh Query 'tis ſo far from being anſwer'd, that 'tis an undoubted Fact that ſeveral of the Directors threaten'd to diſqualify on the Enquiry into Mr. Woolley's Conduct, and that a Liſt in Writing was likewiſe taken in Court of their Names, and in the ſame Court the Deputy-Governor took Notice what Reſpect was thereby paid him by ſuch Directors, and 'tis alſo as true that moſt of thoſe contained in ſuch Liſt have been and are frequently cabal-

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ling to be re-choſen by Way of a Houſe Lift, and 'tis ſurpriſing, that any Advocate of theirs ſhould call the Proprietors fairly and decently requeſted to meet for twenty Days together by publick Advertiſement to nominate Sub and Deputy Governors and Directors, a CABAL, when the preſent Deputy Governor and his Friends, the Directors, were nominated by ſuch a Cabal, only much leſs in Number and Rank, and upon four or five Days Notice only.

The Anſwerer allows the 12th and the 13th, only a little ſmooth'd over.

As to the 14th, it is known to moſt of the Directors, that Mr. P---n was intended to be Treaſurer. And 'tis not unlikely if the Patrons of the late Buenos Ayres Accounts would lay the ſame before you as ſtated and reported upon by ſeveral Committees, you will ſoon determine, whether Factors and their Accounts have or have not been ſcreen'd.

By

By this whole Affair I think it ſeems evident, that your D—— G—— and ſome others in the preſent Direction have not acted with that Circumſpection nor Honour (you may if you will ſay Honeſty) as they ought to have done; for which Reaſon I think you cannot well be ſo void of Senſe, as to entruſt them again, when they have already deceived you; and it is certain, they have ſuffered other People to diminiſh (if I may not be allow'd to ſay rob) you of your Properties, if they have not done it themſelves. I wiſh I could ſincerely ſay, that what illicit Trade has been carried on, and ſuch other vile Tranſactions, were entirely thro' the IGNORANCE of thoſe at the Head of your Affairs; but I apprehend the contrary is plain.

I ſhall now leave the Affair of the preſent D—— G—— and Directors, and proceed on to the Affair from which I have digreſſed, relating to ſome other Tranſactions during

the Sub-Governorſhip of Sir John Eyles. As the Affair of Mr. Thomas Blechynden is ſomewhat eſſential to this laſt, I will next proceed on that.

Mr. Blechynden was one of the Factors at Panama and Porto Bello, with Meſſ. Swartz and Johnſon. He by his own Acknowledgment was guilty with Swartz and Johnſon of an illicit Introduction of Negroes and Goods, to the great Prejudice of the Company; but before I go on in this Affair, I will lay before you a genuine Copy of a private Letter he wrote to Sir John Eyles.

Copy of a private Letter from Mr. Thomas Blechynden, *one of the Company's Factors at* Porto-Bello, *to Sir* John Eyles, *dated* March the 25*th*, 1725.

THE Misfortune I have of having been repreſented to you in the worſt and blackeſt Colours, would be ſufficient to deter me from preſuming to write to you; if I did not know at the ſame Time your Goodneſs and Readineſs to pardon one who has been guilty of Follies, Errors, and Inadvertencies, tho' not to that Degree mine Enemies have ſet me out; as I don't go about to vindicate myſelf in any Reſpect, I ſhall not give you the Trouble of a particular

Defence to the ſeveral Crimes I am charg'd with; on the contrary, do own myſelf guilty of many Things contrary to my Obligations to the honourable Company; tho' at the ſame Time, I cannot help ſaying, that my Youth, want of Experience, and the powerful Example of my Repreſenters to you, carried me into thoſe Meaſures I am now aſhamed of, more than any natural Inclination to Diſhoneſty, or wronging the Company; I can with Truth aſſure you, I have not done any guilty Action as a Servant of the Company, into which they did not perſuade me, and alſo ſhared in the Profits with me; either as to illicit Introductions of Negroes, and of Goods. The Indulto was taken out at *Porto-Bello*, by Meſſieurs *Swartz* and *Johnſon*, ſome Months before I knew of it, and the buying Slaves on the Coaſt was concerted between us, to which they fomented and encouraged me; the 2000 Dollars we got by the ſaid Indulto were equally ſhared between us, of which Mr. *Johnſon* had his Share before he ſet out for *London*; if there was any greater Sum then got, it was unknown to me: the Difference between them two and me conſiſted in this; that I gave them a Share in all that was got at *Porto-Bello*, and that they gave me none of what Money they wrong'd your Honour of at *Panama*, by the moſt ſcandalous Indulto that ever was opened in that Country, and by the worſt Bargain, and moſt injurious to the Company that ever was made; I mean the great Sale of 326000 Pieces of Eight, to ſome *Lima* Gentlemen, whereby they appear to have defrauded the Company of above 80000 Pieces of Eight; I beg you will have the Goodneſs to believe I don't tell you of theſe Faults to recriminate, but out of a ſincere and real Conviction of the Wrong and Injuſtice done

done the Company; and, if poſſible, to make Amends for the Share I acted in them by the Encouragement of others: As to my Carriage and Behaviour in private Dealing, I thank God all that know me will vindicate me from the vile and falſe Informations ſent againſt me to you, and will ſay I am incapable of being guilty of them, both in regard to the 17000 Pieces ſeized at *Porto-Bello*, of Meſſieurs *Swartz*'s and *Johnſon*'s Money, and that charged on me by them in a Council at *Panama*, *February* 1724. If I was writing to any one but you, Sir, to whom I owe ſo much Reſpect, I could not contain myſelf within the Bounds of Decency, in writing on a Subject which touches my Credit and Reputation ſo much; and when the Falſeneſs and Malice of my Enemies appear ſo plainly, it would be tiring your Goodneſs and Patience too much to enter into the Vindication of my Innocency in theſe Particulars laſt mentioned, and therefore ſhall only ſay, that Mr. *Bumpſted* has enquired into them with great Care and Exactneſs, and has formed my Defence ſo good, ſtrong, and clear, that he has done me the Juſtice to believe me innocent; of which I hope he will have the Goodneſs to inform you, Sir, and the Court.

Would to God I could as eaſily and truly vindicate myſelf from the Guilt, which aſſociating with Meſſ. *Swartz* and *Johnſon*, has brought upon me: But as that is impoſſible, and that a ſincere Sorrow, with the ſtrongeſt and moſt honeſt Reſolutions to ſerve the Company for the future, is the only Satisfaction in my Power to make for what I have done amiſs; give me leave, Sir, moſt humbly to throw myſelf on your Goodneſs, and beg your Protection, at the ſame Time that I ſo much need and implore your Pardon.

I own I have no other Dependance nor Hopes but in that universal Benevolence you shew the unhappy and distressed, without which I must be undone in my Fame and Fortune, and exposed to all the Effects of the Malice and Prejudice the evil Tongues of my Enemies can bring on me; I cannot flatter myself of the Hopes of being immediately established in your good Opinion of me, but it shall be my Study, that my future Actions shall be directed to the obtaining that Happiness. *T. Blechynden.*

Now, Gentlemen, I submit the Consideration of this Letter to you, and what Opinion can you entertain of the Veracity and Sincerity of those great Men, to whom you committed the Management of your Affairs? Johnson was acquitted by a secret Committee, and Blechynden some time after came home, but it does not appear that he suffered, or was compelled to make any Satisfaction to the Company; from whence it may reasonably be concluded, that they, by whom he was screen'd, were Partakers with him in his clanedstine and illicit Transactions, to the great Detriment and Damage of the other Proprietors.

What is very strange is, that Johnson, who was guilty of the most e-

normous Crimes, ſhould be deem'd afterwards a Perſon fit to ſerve the Company again: I would deſire to know what Service ſuch a Delinquent could do to the Company; or rather, if he was not to be ſerviceable to the Directors, by following ſuch Orders as they ſhould ſend him, conducive to their private Emolument;

The next Thing I have to obſerve is in relation to Mr. Darroch, who was one of the Company's Factors, and aftewards made chief Factor at Panama. This Perſon married a Spaniſh Gentlewoman at Lima, and carried off almoſt 20000 Dollars of the Company's Money, beſides their Effects, which were very conſiderable; as appears by the following Extract of a private Letter ſent to Sir John Eyles when Sub-Governor, and wrote by Mr. Dennis, whom Darroch ſucceeded.

SIR,

I Believe Mr. *Darroch* was privately a *Roman Catholick* before he had the Honour to be employed in the Company's Service; and I am well inform'd by ſeveral Hands, that he made a Preſent to the Woman whom he lately married, of 15000 Dollars in Jewels and Slaves, and ſettled on her in Dowry 60000, and at the Time of his

Marriage he declared himself worth upwards of 120000 Dollars, besides the above Sums. From this, Sir, he must certainly have abused the Trust reposed in him; for I heard him say, that he was not worth 100*l.* when he came to *Panama*.

It is very surprising that the Directors never sued Darroch, or any of his Sureties; it carries an ill Face, and may make some People apt to think, that they had a Fellow-feeling with him.

We have now gone through several of the notorious Facts committed by the Company's Factors and Servants abroad; the next Thing that comes upon the Stage is the Memorial, or Heads of Complaints of the King of Spain, sent to the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary of State, charging the Company with several Breaches of the Assiento-Contract, which were as follow, viz.

First Head. The Company have not given the King of *Spain* an Account of their Profits as they ought to have done at the End of the first five Years, and every five Years following in Breach of the 29*th* Article of the *Assiento*.

2*d.* That the Company's Annual Permission-Ships carry to the *Spanish West-Indies* Effects belonging to others, besides the Cargo sent on the Company's Account.

3*d.* That when any of the Permission Ships are arrived at the Port in the *Spanish West Indies*

for which she is designed, other Vessels under Pretence of bringing Provisions for the Crew come with Goods, with which they supply her as fast as she unloads; and under Pretence of fetching more Provisions, bring in a fresh Cargo, by which Contrivance the Permission Ship delivers a much greater Quantity of Goods than ever she brought from *Europe*.

4th. That the Company's Ships, as well Permission Ships as others, bring to *Europe* Money and other Effects to a considerable Value belonging to private Persons, *Spaniards*, and of other Nations; besides the Produce of the Sale of Negroes, and the Cargoes of the Permission Ships belonging to the Company, and bring home *Spaniards* as Passengers in Breach of the 17th Article of the *Assiento*.

5th. The over Measure of the Prince *Frederick* which should have been of 500 Tuns, and they say almost double in Breach of the 43d Article.

6th. That the Permission Ship when she lay at *Porto Bello*, when Admiral *Hosier* came before that Place, sold her Cargo, and even sailed from thence on her Voyage home, before the Time appointed for holding the Fair at that Place, which hinder'd the holding the Fair.

The Directors in Answer to these Complaints, asserted, that most of the Facts alledged were improbable, and seemed to be so sanguine, as to hope that by their Proceedings they should be more entitled to his Majesty's Favour and Protection, to enter upon the Defence of the Company (poor Innocent Souls!) and to insist upon some solid and better Assurance of enjoying their Commerce.

Notwithstanding the Denial of the Directors, I am apt to think that the Charge of the Court of *Spain* carries Truth in it; and though Sir *John Eyles* said, that he did not believe any Money or Effects had been brought to *England* in the Com-

Jury's Ships not belonging to the Company, yet it was believed he felt the SWEETS of it; and it was proved on Oath, that the *Royal Katherine* brought almoſt as much Money for Private Trade as ſhe did for the Company. The ſaid Sir *John* aſſerted, that the Company never heard of any Contraband Goods being carried to the *Weſt Indies*, he muſt ſure be very forgetful, ſince Mr. *Bunſted*, upon his Examination, declared, that 150 Tons of Goods were ſhipped at St. *Chriſtopher's*, on board the *Royal George*, and that their Supra-Cargoes took 400 Tons of illicit Goods into the Ship *Prince Frederick*.

Having gone through this Affair with as much Brevity and Perſpicuity as poſſible, and deteſted the Frauds of the former Directors and their Agents, it will be concluded that they feather'd their own Neſts very plentifully; and as to the preſent Directors, the Male Behaviour of Mr. *Woolley*, and others, plainly declare, that they are not altogether unculpable, not to uſe an harder Epither; and indeed it is ſomething ſtrange, that the preſent Deputy Governor, and his Friends, who were brought in to the Direction in Oppoſition to the Houſe Liſt laſt Year ſhould now be placed upon the very ſame Liſt, and make Intereſt to be re-choſen. But the honeſt and wealthieſt Proprietors thought it proper to make a Liſt of ſuch Gentlemen, who are Men of Probity and Integrity, to be choſen Sub and Deputy Governors, and Directors, who will ſerve the Company *gratis*. Whether the preſent Gentlemen in the Houſe Liſt have followed the Example of their Predeceſſors, by giving large Sums of Money againſt an Election, I cannot take upon me to determine; and whether they are ſo ſtrenuous to be re-elected on purpoſe to ſcreen themſelves and others, I ſubmit to the Proprietors, who have any Value for their own Stock, and Charity for their Fellow-Sufferers.